

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-07 SP-02
STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 EA-07 FRB-03 IO-13 NEA-10
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 /144 W
-----031255Z 053276 /40

P R 031129Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 939

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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STATE PASS DOT; PARIS FOR SECRETARY ADAMS AND USOECD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN OCOM OVIP (ADAMS, BROCK) OTRA GR

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF SECY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS AT
45TH COUNCIL OF ECMT

SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS, ACCOMPANIED
BY A SMALL DELEGATION INCLUDING DOT ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DAVENPORT AND A MEMBER OF THE US MISSION TO THE OECD,
ATTENDED THE 45TH COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT, HELD IN ATHENS ON JUNE 1-2. THE
ADAMS VISIT, THE FIRST TO GREECE BY A CABINET MEMBER OF
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, GENERATED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC
INTEREST AND WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR USEFUL EXCHANGES
WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. GREEK REACTION TO SECRETARY ADAMS' VISIT WAS ENTHUSIASTIC,
AND ALL LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO/TV NETWORKS GAVE WIDESPREAD
COVERAGE TO A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 1 AT THE AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND
GREEK PRESS. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT.)
A TAPED INTERVIEW WITH GREEK NATIONAL TELEVISION, ARRANGED
BY USIS, WAS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ELABORATION OF US

TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY POLICIES. DURING A RECEPTION HOSTED ON JUNE 1 BY PRESIDENT TSATSOS FOR ECMT DELEGATES, SECRETARY ADAMS HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MANY SENIOR GREEK OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER VOYATZIS, ALL OF WHOM WELCOMED THE PRESENCE IN GREECE OF A US CABINET OFFICIAL AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS GREEK VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN.

2. DURING THE ECMT MEETING, SECRETARY ADAMS ANNOUNCED THE US INTENTION TO SEEK ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN ECMT. THIS POSITION WAS ENCOURAGED BY OTHER ECMT MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY BELGIUM. THE MISSION TO THE OECD IS EXPLORING PROCEDURES FOR THIS ACTION WITH THE ECMT SECRETARY GENERAL.

3. STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS CONTAINED SEVERAL INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSALS. THOSE OF MOST INTEREST TO THE US INCLUDED A STRONG STATEMENT ENCOURAGING FORCEFUL PROMOTION OF ROAD SAFETY (NETHERLANDS), MANDATORY USE OF HEADLIGHTS AT ALL TIMES WHEN DRIVING (SWEEDEN), BICYCLE LANES COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM AUTO ROADS (NORWAY), MANDATORY ADVANCED AND IMPROVED TRAINING FOR DRIVING INSTRUCTORS (GERMANY), AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SEAT BELT LATCHES AND OPENING PROCEDURES AND LOCATIONS (GERMANY).

4. MINISTER GSCHIEDLE OF GERMANY, IN COMMENTS AT THE MEETING, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE US CONTRIBUTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ROAD SAFETY AND ENCOURAGED CONTINUED EXCHANGE OF ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION WITH THE US.

5. IT WAS AGREED BY THE ECMT COUNCIL TO MEETT AGAIN DURING DECEMBER.

6. COMMENT: SECY ADAMS' VISIT TO GREECE, WHILE NECESSARILY BRIEF BECAUSE OF HIS EARLY DEPARTURE JUNE 3 FOR THE PARIS AIR SHOW, WAS OUTSTANDING FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW. HIS POSITIVE RECEPTION HERE, OUTSIDE THE ECMT CONTEXT, INDICATED WIDESPREAD GREEK INTEREST IN THIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES RANGING BEYOND THE ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION SECTORS TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES IN THE AEGEAN AND ON CYPRUS. THE GREEKS WERE PARTICULARLY TAKEN WITH THE SECRETARY'S DEFT AND JUDICIOUS COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MORAL APPROACH TO THE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND STRONG INTEREST IN AN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSPORTATION, REPORT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS05170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770198-0591
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770695/aaaadfgw.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02e94086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2296305
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTENDANCE OF SECY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS AT 45TH COUNCIL OF ECMT SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS
TAGS: ETRN, OCON, OVIP, OTRA, PFOR, GR, DOT, (ADAMS, BROCK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02e94086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009